

**INVENTOR'S DECLARATION FOR  
PATENT APPLICATION**

As below named inventors, we hereby declare that:

Our residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to our names;

We believe we are the original, first and sole joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

**COUPLING SYSTEM FOR SURGICAL INSTRUMENT**

the specification of which: (check one)

       is attached hereto.

X was filed on October 31, 2003  
under Attorney's Docket Number 31849.35  
as Application Serial No. 10/698,638  
and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

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(Application Number)

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(Filing Date)

We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(b) of any foreign applications for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below,

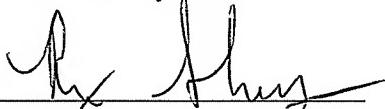
PATENT / DOCKET NO.: P11712.00/31849.35  
CUSTOMER NO. 46334

any foreign application for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Claimed

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FULL NAME OF INVENTOR: Rex Wesley Shores



DATED: 12/28/06

RESIDENCE: Norfolk, MA 02056

CITIZENSHIP: USA

POST OFFICE ADDRESS: 3 Bridie Lane  
Norfolk, MA 02056

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FULL NAME OF INVENTOR: Paul A. Cihak

INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

RESIDENCE: Grapevine, TX 76051

CITIZENSHIP: USA

POST OFFICE ADDRESS: 4500 Amesbury Cir.  
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FULL NAME OF INVENTOR: Larry D. Estes

INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

RESIDENCE: North Richland Hills, TX 76180

CITIZENSHIP: USA

POST OFFICE ADDRESS: 6904 Glenwood Dr.  
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INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

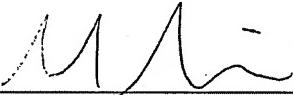
RESIDENCE: The Colony, TX 75056

CITIZENSHIP: USA

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FULL NAME OF INVENTOR: Paul A. Cihak

INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE:  DATED: 12/7/06

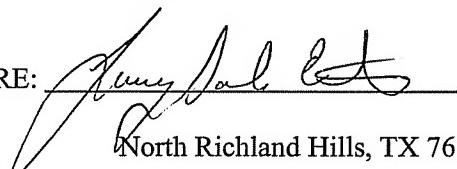
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